

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A storage-device controlling apparatus in a storage system, comprising:

a file system for receiving a data input/output request on file-name specification basis, and executing the input/output of data with respect to a storage device included in the file system in response to said data input/output request, said data input/output request being transmitted from an information processing apparatus connected to the storage-device controlling apparatus via a network; and

a processing device operative to perform steps of:

receiving a proxy request for substitute-executing the download of a file from a Web server on the Internet, said proxy request being transmitted from the information processing apparatus based on HTTP protocol via said network;

establishing a connection with the Internet;

downloading said file from said Web server in response to said proxy request; and

storing said downloaded file into said storage device via said file system.

2. (Previously presented): The storage-device controlling apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processing device is operative to perform further steps of:

accepting said proxy request and transmitting to a sender of said proxy request information that identifies a storage location of said file in said storage device, said file being downloaded in accordance with said proxy request.

3. (Previously presented): The storage-device controlling apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processing device is operative to perform further steps of:

checking whether or not, when said proxy request is accepted, said file specified by said proxy request is already stored in said storage device; and

wherein, if said file has been stored in said storage device, then said download of said file will not be executed.

4. (Previously presented): The storage-device controlling apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processing device is operative to perform further steps of:
transmitting a message to a sender of said proxy request via said network when said file is stored into said storage device, said message notifying that said file has been stored into said storage device.

5. (Previously presented): The storage-device controlling apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
a processing queue for storing said proxy requests therein,
wherein said processing device is operative to perform a step of modifying a processing sequence of proxy requests that have been registered in said processing queue.

6. (Original): The storage-device controlling apparatus according to claim 5, wherein
a condition for starting a processing for said each proxy request is stored on said each proxy request basis,
whether or not processing about said proxy requests should be started being determined depending on said condition, said proxy requests being registered in said processing queue.

7. (Currently amended): An information processing apparatus, comprising:
means for transmitting a proxy request to a storage-device controlling apparatus via a network and based on the HTTP protocol, said storage-device controlling apparatus being connected to said information processing apparatus via said network,
said storage-device controlling apparatus, comprising:
means for establishing a connection with the Internet;
means for accessing a Web server on the Internet;

a file system that, when there occurs a download request for downloading a file from said Web server, receives a data input/output request on file-name specification basis, and executes the input/output of said data with respect to a storage device included in the file system in response to said data input/output request, said proxy request being transmitted from an information processing apparatus;

means for accepting a proxy request for substitute-executing said download of said file from said Web server on the Internet, said proxy request being transmitted from the information processing apparatus based on the HTTP protocol via said network;

means for downloading said file from said Web server in response to said proxy request; and

means for storing said downloaded file into said storage device by using said file system.

8. (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

means for storing a condition for determining whether or not to transmit said proxy request to said storage-device controlling apparatus, said condition being about said file that becomes a target of said download; and

means for checking whether or not said file satisfies said condition when there occurs said download request for downloading said file from said Web server,

wherein, if said file does not satisfy said condition, said proxy request will not be transmitted to said storage-device controlling apparatus.

9. (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

means for downloading said file by accessing said Web server by itself if said proxy request is not transmitted to said storage-device controlling apparatus.

10. (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

means for accessing said Web server via the Internet so as to acquire information on said file when there occurs said download request for downloading said file from said Web server, and

means for judging whether or not said file satisfies said condition by making a comparison between said information and said condition.

11. (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said condition includes at least one of the following conditions: the data size of said file is larger than a threshold-value size, said data size of said file is smaller than said threshold-value size, said file is a specified type of file, the file name is a specified file name, and the updating time-and-date satisfies a set-up condition.

12. (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

means for allowing a Web browser to come into operation,
said download request for downloading said file from said Web server occurring by being caused by said operation of said Web browser.

13. (Currently amended): A program executing on an information processing apparatus for allowing said information processing apparatus to implement a function of transmitting a proxy request to a storage-device controlling apparatus via a network and based on the HTTP protocol when there occurs a download request for downloading a file from a Web server on the Internet, said storage-device controlling apparatus being connected to said information processing apparatus via said network,

said storage-device controlling apparatus comprising a file system for receiving a data input/output request on file-name specification basis, and executing the input/output of said data with respect to a storage device included in the file system in response to said data input/output request, said data input/output request being transmitted from an information processing apparatus via a network;

said storage-device controlling apparatus operative to accept said proxy request for substitute-executing said download of said file from said Web server on the Internet, said proxy request being transmitted from the information processing apparatus based on the HTTP protocol via said network;

said storage-device controlling apparatus further operative to establish a connection with the Internet;

said storage-device controlling apparatus further operative to download said file from said Web server in response to said proxy request;

said storage-device controlling apparatus further operative to store said downloaded file into said storage device by using said file system.

14. (Original): The program according to claim 13, which further allows said information processing apparatus to implement:

a function of storing a condition for determining whether or not to transmit said proxy request to said storage-device controlling apparatus, said condition being about said file that becomes a target of said download;

a function of checking whether or not said file satisfies said condition when there occurs said download request for downloading said file from said Web server; and

a function of not transmitting said proxy request to said storage-device controlling apparatus if said file does not satisfy said condition.

15. (Original): The program according to claim 13, which further allows said information processing apparatus to implement:

a function of downloading said file by accessing said Web server by itself if said proxy request is not transmitted to said storage-device controlling apparatus.

16. (Original): The program according to claim 13, which further allows said information processing apparatus to implement:

a function of accessing said Web server via the Internet so as to acquire information on said file when there occurs said download request for downloading said file from said Web server; and

a function of judging whether or not said file satisfies said condition by making a comparison between said information and said condition.